BRITISH COLUMBIA | BCStats

Infoline

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- **The unemployment rate in B.C. rose to 7.0% in March**
- **B.C.'s commodity exports fell 1.9% in February**
- **The number of public school graduates in B.C. fell 1.9% in the 2010/2011 academic year**

Labour Force

- **In March, the number of employed persons in B.C. decreased by 14,800, pushing up the unemployment rate by 0.7 percentage points to 7.0% (*seasonally adjusted*).**

  Full-time employment fell (-22,400), reversing the gains in full-time employment seen in February. There were fewer self-employed (-9,400) and private sector (-5,600) workers.

  Data Source: Statistics Canada

- **The unemployment rate in B.C. (7.0%, *seasonally adjusted*) was the 4th lowest in Canada—after Saskatchewan (3.9%), Alberta (4.8%) and Manitoba (5.0%).**

  Among these provinces growth in employment was strongest over the last 12 months in Saskatchewan (+4.6%), followed by Alberta (+1.7%), Manitoba (+1.2%), and B.C. (+0.1%).

  At the national level, following an increase in the previous month, employment declined by 54,500 in March. The entire decline in employment was the result of a drop in full-time employment. The national unemployment rate increased by 0.2 percentage points to 7.2%. Employment declined in Quebec, B.C. and Alberta, and edged down in Ontario. The only province with an increase was Nova Scotia. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

- **In March, the goods-producing sector was down 10,500 jobs (*seasonally adjusted*) compared to the previous month.** The losses were in the construction industry (-12,300) and the agriculture industry (-4,100). Compared to the same time last year, the goods-producing sector was down 12,700 jobs (-2.8%).

  Employment in the services-producing sector edged down slightly (-4,300). The largest employment gains were in the wholesale and retail (+8,800) and the professional, scientific and technical services (+5,800) industries. The majority of the losses were found in the accommodation and food services (-8,300) and finance, insurance, real estate and leasing (-4,100) industries. Compared to March 2012, employment in the services-producing sector was up 15,500 jobs (+0.8%).

  Data Source: Statistics Canada

- **The unemployment rate (*3-month moving average, unadjusted*) of the off-reserve Aboriginal population of B.C. jumped to 15.1% in March—an increase of 1.7 percentage points from the previous month—marking the fourth consecutive month of unemployment rate increases.** However, when compared to the same time last year (16.1%) the unemployment rate was a percentage point lower. The unemployment rates for both the First Nations (+0.4 percentage points) and Métis (+3.2 percentage points) populations increased from the previous month, climbing to 14.8% and 16.1%, respectively. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

The Economy

- **The value of B.C.'s commodity exports fell 1.9% (*seasonally adjusted*) in February.** A substantial decline in shipments of metal ores and non-metallic minerals (-41.9%) combined with falling shipments of most other commodity groups offset strong growth in ex-

Did you know...

A recent poll found that British Columbians had the longest mortgage repayment expectations in the country, with residents estimating that they will be 59 years old, on average, before paying off their mortgage, compared to the national average of 57.

Source: CIBC

ports of metal and non-metallic mineral products (+25.0%) and forestry products and building and packaging materials (+7.4%).

Seasonally adjusted exports were down to both the United States (-3.2%) and the rest of the world (-0.7%). For the U.S., the overall decline was mainly driven by a 17.3% slump in exports of energy products, whereas for shipments to the rest of the world, a 43.9% plunge in exports of metal ores and non-metallic minerals did most of the damage. There was strong growth in shipments of metal ores and non-metallic mineral products to both the U.S. (+13.9%) and the rest of the world (+49.0%). A 16.4% boost in exports of forestry products and building and packaging materials also helped minimize the overall decline in exports to non-U.S. destinations.

Data Source: BC Stats & Statistics Canada

Education

- **There were 40,794 (-1.9%) public school graduates (*all ages, regular programs*) in British Columbia in the 2010/2011 academic year, the first drop recorded since 2006/2007, and more than double the contraction in the national rate (-0.8%).** The rate of decline was slightly faster for females (-2.2%) than for males (-1.5%), further narrowing the gap between the sexes, with 20,400 female graduates and 20,391 male graduates. Most graduates were 17 (42%) or 18 (50%) years of age. Female students were more likely to finish school at the age of 17 (52%), contrasted by males (51%) being more likely to complete high school at 18 years of age.

Data Source: Statistics Canada

- **There were 35,961 educators (*a mix of teachers, administrators, and pedagogical support*) in British Columbia's public elementary and secondary schools during the 2010/2011 academic year.** This was a decline of 1.1% over the previous academic year. Female educators (-0.5%) made up 70% of the total, while males (-2.5%) accounted for the remaining 30%. Three quarters (76%) of all educators were full-time educators, and a quarter (24%) were part-time educators. The number of full-time educators fell at a faster rate (-1.2%) than the number of part-time educators (-0.9%), with full-time educators under the age of 25 registering the largest decline (-32.6%), while the number of educators aged 65 and over increased 27.9% over the previous year. There was no change in the number of part-time educators under the age of 25, though the cohort aged 25 to 29 contracted 7.8%. Nationally, the total number of educators dipped very slightly (-0.2%).

Data Source: Statistics Canada

The Nation

- **The index for electric utility distribution system construction costs rose 0.9% in 2012, to 161.6 (*index 1992=100*).** Total direct costs increased (+0.9%), as labour costs went up (+2.9%) for the third straight year, though prices for materials (-0.1%) and construction equipment (-1.7%) both fell. Increased costs for construction indirects (+1.4%), such as engineering (+1.3%) and administration & overhead (+1.4%), also contributed to the rise. Construction costs for transmission line systems edged up 0.2%, as substation construction costs rose 0.5%, largely due to the cost of labour increasing 2.5%. The cost of constructing transmission lines dipped 0.1%, as material costs fell 1.9%. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

For data originating from Statistics Canada, data sourced to 'Statistics Canada' has been retrieved from CANSIM, the agency's electronic database; otherwise the source is identified as 'SC' plus the catalogue number.

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BC at a glance . . .

POPULATION (thousands)	Jan 1/2013	% change on one year ago
BC	4,639.9	0.8
Canada	35,056.1	1.1
GDP and INCOME (Released Nov 19)		
(BC - at market prices)	2011	% change on one year ago
Gross Domestic Product (GDP) *($ millions)*	217,749	4.5
GDP *($ 2007 millions)*	206,180	2.8
GDP *($ 2007 per Capita)*	45,083	1.8
Household Sector Disposable Income *($ 2007 per Capita)*	26,788	0.9
TRADE ($ millions, seasonally adjusted)		% change on prev. month
Manufacturing Shipments - Jan 2013	3,188	2.1
Merchandise Exports - Jan 2013	2,716	9.3
Retail Sales - Jan 2013	5,118	1.0
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX	% change on	12-month avg
(all items - Feb 2013)	one year ago	% change
BC	0.9	0.9
Vancouver	1.2	1.1
Victoria	0.7	0.8
Canada	1.2	1.2
LABOUR FORCE (thousands)		% change on
(seasonally adjusted)	Mar 2013	prev. month
Jobs Created (-Lost) - BC	-14.8	
Labour Force - BC	2,475.7	0.1
Employed - BC	2,302.6	-0.6
Unemployed - BC	173.1	11.9
		Feb 2013
Unemployment Rate - BC *(percent)*	7.0	6.3
Unemployment Rate - Canada *(percent)*	7.2	7.0
INTEREST RATES (percent)	Apr 3/2013	Apr 4/2012
Prime Business Rate	3.00	3.00
Conventional Mortgages - 1 year	3.00	3.20
- 5 year	5.14	5.44
US-CANADA EXCHANGE RATE	Apr 3/2013	Apr 4/2012
(avg. noon spot rate) Cdn $ per US $	1.0134	0.9962
(closing rate) US $ per Cdn $	0.9857	1.0036
AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGE RATE		% change on
(industrial aggregate - dollars)	Mar 2013	one year ago
BC	868.14	1.1
Canada	879.01	2.2

SOURCES:

Population, Gross Domestic Product, Trade, Prices, Labour Force, Wage Rate } Statistics Canada

Interest Rates, Exchange Rates: Bank of Canada Weekly Financial Statistics

For latest Weekly Financial Statistics see www.bankofcanada.ca

Provincial Electoral District Profiles 2011

Posted to our Open Data page is a 2011 Census Profile for the Provincial Electoral Districts. The file layout matches the other 2011 Profiles, simplifying comparisons to many areas . See more: http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/StatisticsBySubject/Census/OpenData.aspx

Population Estimates by Age and Sex 2012

Updated population estimates by age and sex for B.C. sub-provincial regions are now available. . . See more: http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/StatisticsBySubject/Demography/PopulationEstimates.aspx

B.C. Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector

The 2012 edition of the profile of British Columbia's fisheries and aquaculture sector is now available. See more: http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/AboutUs/News/13-01-29/British_Columbia_s_Fisheries_and_Aquaculture_Sector.aspx

Municipal Population Estimates 2012

Population estimates for B.C. municipalities and regional districts as of July 1, 2012 are now available. See more: http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/StatisticsBySubject/Demography/PopulationEstimates.aspx

Provincial Economic Accounts 2011

Provincial economic accounts data for 2011, including gross domestic product, are now available. . See more: http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/StatisticsBySubject/Economy/EconomicAccounts.aspx

Released last week by BC Stats

- Exports
- Labour Force Statistics
- Earnings and Employment Trends

To Release this week

- No releases

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